

**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 01, 2015 4:05 PM

**Subject:** Council Speaker Registration/Testimony

## **[REDACTED] Testimony**

All fields marked "(\*)" are required and must be completed in order for this form to be valid.  
 Note: Registrations are not accepted prior to the agendas being posted.

**Name(\*)** Trisha Kajimura  
**Phone (\*)** (808)527-4810  
**Email (\*)** trisha.kajimura@catholiccharitieshawaii.org  
**Meeting Date (\*)** 2015-09-02  
**Council/PH Committee (\*)** Council  
**Agenda Item (\*)** Bill 20  
**Your position on the matter (\*)** Support  
**Representing (\*)** Organization  
**Organization** Catholic Charities Hawaii  
**Do you wish to speak at the hearing? (\*)** No

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### **Written Testimony**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Bill 20, which would amend the land use ordinance to establish accessory dwelling units as a permitted use and to encourage the creation of affordable housing. Catholic Charities Hawai'i strongly supports the concept of accessory dwelling units. Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 60 years. CCH programs serve elders, children, developmentally disabled, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy to the most vulnerable of the people in Hawai'i. Catholic Charities Hawai'i has a long history of working on housing issues and solutions to homelessness. Now is the time to act to create new and decent housing options. Housing needs are well documented: The 2014 Housing Study, recently released, finds that about 14,000 rental units are needed on Oahu by 2020 for people under 80% of the Area Median income (AMI). The need for housing has dramatically risen since the last rental study in 2011. 78% of people living in poverty pay over fifty percent of their income for rent. We need to focus on new ideas

such as ADUs to create more housing. Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) have great potential to provide housing for a wide range of people from young workers to struggling families to elders priced out of higher cost rentals. ADU's can provide thousands of rental units with flexibility and without large government subsidies. We support ADUs that address the concerns of neighborhoods on size limits and owner occupants to help retain the character of the neighborhood. ADUs not only help renters but they help struggling homeowners to pay their mortgages and provide a more secure life for their families. They can help seniors to age in place. There are many benefits to the community when ADUs are permitted and appropriately regulated to ensure they are code-compliant and are paying into the community (e.g. sewer fees, GET taxes). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue. Please contact me at (808) 527-4810 or [trisha.kajimura@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:trisha.kajimura@catholiccharitieshawaii.org) if you have any questions.

**Testimony  
Attachment**

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and Conditions**     1  
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